1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15
Maricopa
Yuma

no children of their own. Men approved, "treated them like girls," but the women were uneasy of them. Women who passed for men (kwlaaxamē', which cannot be etymologized) dressed like men and married women. There was no ceremony at the transformation as among the Mohave. 838 588

Since all success depended on dreaming, it must have been frequent in adult life. In fact, the evidence is that the interpretation of dreams was a relatively common topic for discussion among friends. For instance, a significant dream came to a man or woman before they had intercourse; by it they knew whether they would have children. A man might dream that he was gathering little birds or puppies, dream that he was fond of them; that was a sign that he would have children. A woman might equally have such a dream. The dream did not give power to conceive: it was merely a forecast. Only in this sense, said informants, could it be said that a man knew the woman would conceive before she did.[3] Or on telling a dream, someone would interpret it: "That is a sign that you are not going to have a child." This type of dreaming had no special designation. 787 [521] [892]

Similarly a man who had dreamed of marching up to fierce animals, who suddenly became quiet, could in the same manner march up to and kill a foeman.

Beside spontaneous dreaming, there was the possibility of inducing dreams which would yield occult power by taking jimsonweed. While under its influence, a man dreamed that the birds sang to him and told what he should do. Some days later he began to sing, having gotten power to cure. Such a person would not live long, they believed. For other persons the reactions to the narcotic were interpreted differently: their actions while under its influence foretold their future. If a man "was interested in fishing," he might jump into the river fully-clad, 276 787 828

[3] Of the Yuma, Forde writes: "Actual conception is known to the man before it is to the woman. . . . . To him, it is believed, comes the power to create the child. Conception can only occur when the man has received this power of which he should normally dream beforehand. Without this sense of spiritual exaltation intercourse cannot be fruitful, and he is immediately aware if he has achieved impregnation. The woman, for her part, can also resist conception by merely refusing to desire a child" (*Yuma Ethnography*, p. 158; cf. p. 159). Perhaps; but I suggest that his informant meant no more than the Maricopa forecast. [114]

1:Spier E-5 (1929-1932) 1933 NT15 River Yumans NT15
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wall poles were not so heavy. Long thin willows were selected for these so that they might lap considerably over the ridge. Dirt was banked halfway up the sides, not all over, and the hut lacked the pit of the storage house. The structure was just large enough for a single person to lie.

Throughout their lives, women left their dwellings for these shelters during their monthly illnesses. Meat and salt were again tabu at this time, and the scratching stick, kept in the hut, must be used. They bathed each morning, but did not run to the east. There they worked at their basketry and the like; other women and girls, menstruants and otherwise, joining them in their activities and eating with them there.

A girl at first menstruation was called matavi'$_{R^4}$ (meaningless?) or macâxai' matavi'$_{R^4}$; any menstruant ha'kwĭnyavĭ'g; the menstrual or puberty hut literally ha'kwĭnyavĭn$_{,}$âvà', "menstruant's house"; the menstrual period and flow, n$_{,}$ihwĭ'tk, "red," or by a euphemism xakn$_{,}$ivi'k, "living away."

MANNERISMS, CUSTOMARY BEHAVIOR, AND SAYINGS

Like all Indians, these people can sit endlessly saying nothing and looking fixedly into space. It made no difference whether a stranger like myself was present or not. On the other hand, they can become excessively talkative and are at all times ready to joke and laugh. If there is any one noticeable feature, it is their constant spontaneous humor. I observed this before I became aware that Kroeber had recorded exactly the same characteristic of the Mohave.[15] Mr. E. W. Gifford tells me that the Cocopa impressed him as more humorously inclined than the central Californian tribes with whom he is familiar. It may be that this is a lower Colorado Yuman trait.

A humorous incident will illustrate. A group of women once went to gather berries. A man, who had gone hunting early, was returning still early in the day when he met them. Spying a big hole in the ground, he used two knuckles to imitate deer tracks leading to it. He called to them to come look at it. He asked, "You see those tracks? What do you think it is?" They said it looked like deer tracks. He said, "If you are sure, you had better sit around and watch that hole. I will run home to get something to dig with. Your baskets are just the thing to

[15] *Ibid.*, p. 731.